

National Petroleum Reserve -
Alaska

ALASKA *People*

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October 2001 - January 2002



Ed Bovy

Mike Zaidlicz holds a Public Lands Foundation award given posthumously to his father, Ed "Moose" Zaidlicz, at the December all employees meeting in Anchorage. Zaidlicz's father, a former state director of Montana, was honored for his work and dedication to public lands. With Zaidlicz is associate state director Linda Rundell and former Alaska state director Curt McVee.

"Disaster" Meeting

Draws Employees and Former State Director

What would you do if it's -20°F and there's a devastating earthquake? You're in the Anchorage Federal Building, the windows are blown out and the elevators and stairways have collapsed. How do you get out? Do you want to get out? If you get out of the building in one piece, where do you go? And most importantly—were you able to grab your coat, boots and gloves so that you can survive the subzero temperatures? You may have to walk home because your car is crushed in the basement, the municipality's emergency services are scrambling, and the federal building is not a priority. This scenario and other issues were to have been covered by **Ken Higgins**,

safety officer during our "disaster" all employees meeting. But disaster presentations given by representatives from the municipality, Department of Interior and the state epidemiologist ran longer than expected. So Higgins will be giving Anchorage area employees more detailed disaster information in two-hour training sessions scheduled for January 28 - February 4. He and **Carol Belenski** will address personal safety issues and the location of emergency caches. Similar meetings are planned for our other offices.

This year's all employees meeting was held December 5 at the Anchorage Museum. A welcomed addition to the presenters lineup was former Alaska state

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David Dash (left) confers with others at an incident.

Alaska Team Honored for Trade Center Work

Beginning October 8, Alaska's Type I incident command team was in New York City helping with the logistics and planning for the city's recovery. Normally,

the team coordinates wildland fire suppression activities but their work in New York was vastly different. For a month the 34-member team kept track of recovery workers tools and equipment and logged body parts and personal items of those killed at the Trade Center on Sept. 11.

It was a trying assignment for everyone and many painful memories came flooding back November 16, when the Governor's office and city of Anchorage honored the team with a ceremony at the Loussac Library in Anchorage.

The memories, the sights, sounds and smells are something you never forget. When he first walked Ground Zero, incident commander Joe Stam said "you find yourself talking in hushed tones because you feel like you're at a burial ground, and you truly are."

The team was called to support New York City's Fire Department. "Alaska's firefighters have a great reputation in the Lower 48. We roll up our sleeves and get the job done," says Stam.

BLM's **David Dash**, the deputy team commander said members are going to remember their New York experience for the rest of their lives. The deaths of so many firefighters was difficult to handle.

A powerpoint presentation set to music detailing the team's work at the disaster site was shown and brought many in the audience to tears. "We appreciate the recognition but we don't feel like heroes. . . The heroes are back there still doing the job," says Stam.

The team routinely handles large project fires throughout the U.S., but it is trained to handle other incidents such as the disaster in New York City.

One of the best compliments the team routinely receives is that nobody can tell who works for what agency. They intentionally lose agency identities and become a team member. The Alaska Interagency Type I team members represent local, state and federal agencies.

The team considered their assignment in New York a "real honor."

Chris Gibson Remembered

Anchorage Field Office geologist **Christopher Gibson** was remembered Oct. 11 at a ceremony led by cadastral survey supervisor **Jerry Pinkerton**. Pinkerton, joined by Gibson's co-workers, spoke of how Chris' brief life had affected many people. A spruce tree was planted in his memory in front of the BLM's Campbell Tract facility offices and a bronze plaque designed by **Don Pino** rests at its base.

Gibson died September 2000 in a plane crash in Bethel while on official BLM business.



== employee profile ==

Being an archaeologist was not **Howard Smith's** life-long dream. "Stones and bones didn't interest me at all," he said. However, the biggest part of the 25-year veteran's job is doing 'archaeological clearances' for the Northern Field Office (NFO).

He and three other archaeologists make sure the Northern Field Office complies with requirements of the National Preservation Act. He reviews land management actions proposed for archaeological or historic sites and recommends on-the-ground inventories. The best thing about his job is the opportunity to go to the field. "Usually I have the use of a helicopter for a few days each summer which lets me get around and really see some country," he said. Born in Cache Valley, Utah, Smith always wanted to come to Alaska.

Smith worked short-term jobs in Utah with the Forest Service and Utah Division of State History before coming to Alaska in 1976. Originally he was assigned to BLM's Kotzebue field station but has spent most of his career at NFO in Fairbanks.

He was mainly interested in cultural anthropology after taking undergraduate courses at George Washington University but ended up in archaeology.

Three archaeological sites have shaped his career—a series of ditches and related structures associated with water delivered to Nome mines; the historic mining community of Tofty, just outside of Manley Hot Springs; and the Nuk site, a late pre-historic site near Safety Sound, about 15 miles east of Nome. Recently he's been conducting baseline inventories in the Steese National Conservation Area.

What is the last book you've read (or currently reading)? Right now I'm reading *Changing Tracks*, by Timothy Rawson; *Archaeologists and Native Americans*, by Swidler, Dongoske, Anyon and Downer; and for a change of pace, I just finished *The Stargazer* by Martha Grimes.

Relate some fond and/or fun BLM memories. I remember trying to backfill the Nuk site when it was raining so hard and the wind was blowing so fiercely that you'd shovel dirt only to have it fly away; sleeping in the cab of the pickup because the wind leveled our camp near Toolik Lake; and getting chased across the ridge top by a black bear sow who failed to appreciate that I was no threat to her cubs. I remember Joe Webb's hush puppies on a gravel bar on the Buckland River; eating lunch on Gunsight Mountain and catching grayling for dinner on Boston Creek. I remember countless hours of flying in small aircraft or helicopters; and driving the haul road until I was sick of it; the friendly people in Selawik when I did Native allotments examinations there years ago; and lots of BLM people in Fairbanks who have retired or moved on.

What have you learned from working for the BLM? BLM's capacity to change in important and fundamental ways. When I first came to work for BLM, there was a lot



Howard Smith, Archaeologist Northern Field Office

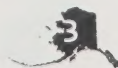
of resistance to the cultural resource program and other resource programs. Over the years I've . . . seen the agency grow and mature to an extent that I don't think any of us would have anticipated.

What is BLM's "weakest link?" Our biggest problem is inherent and unavoidable; BLM has never been given the resources we really need to do the job.

If you had one year to live, what would you do? Quit work, put my affairs in order, travel a bit and think a lot.

What does your "ultimate meal" consist of? Oysters Rockefeller, pan-broiled beef filet with mustard cream sauce, roasted new potatoes; young asparagus spears; tossed salad with an assortment of greens; a good vinaigrette; and chocolate mousse. I'd pair the oysters with a good Chardonnay, the main course with a properly aged Cabernet and end the meal with a glass of vintage port and a cappuccino.

With many people out-of-work following the Sept. 11 attacks, do you think more people will be inclined to work for BLM or the Federal government? Recent events have apparently caused Americans to reevaluate the role of government, and as a result, the opinion of government workers is now higher than it has been in years. But it will take more . . . to make the young workers of today think more seriously about public service. We may also need to tone down the anti- government rhetoric a bit if we expect good people to go into public service. *Written by Ella Wright, a writer-editor with the Division of Support Services*





PEER

Employees Give \$14,870 worth of PEER awards

Did you receive a PEER award? Several hundred employees have. About 576 PEER awards were given out last fiscal year. A PEER award is an award given to one's peer (supervisors and management are excluded from the program) for a specific job or service performed well.

Larry Crane, the statewide PEER Award coordinator, says the program is working great. "Many people gave their allotted three PEER awards and several employees received more than one award," says Crane. "We spent \$14,870,000 for the first fiscal year (the program began in May). According to my calculations we had about a 57% participation rate," he says.

The PEER Award Program got its start in May when Crane and

Rhonda Reynolds, members of the Human Resources Development Committee did some research and went on to develop the program. Other states have their own version of the PEER awards. The HRDC was instrumental in determining the program's feasibility.

Crane and many others think the success of the program has to do with the ease at which awards can be given (minimal paperwork) and the popularity of the award, a \$25 gift certificate to popular restaurants and stores. "I have seen many happy people giving as well as receiving these awards. We have over 750 employees in BLM Alaska," he says "and I am confident that this program is going to grow."

Above: Larry Crane and Rhonda Reynolds



Whatever happened to Johnny Horizon?

by Ed Bovy

Not many BLMers know that BLM Alaska's former chief of public affairs (mid-1980's) **George Gurr** helped bring Johnny Horizon to life. During the 70's it was Johnny Horizon, BLM's rugged, cartoon cowboy spokesperson which captured the public's attention, although BLM was afresh with the passage of the Federal Land Policy Management Act.

Johnny's motto was "This Land is Your land- keep it clean." He went on to become possibly BLM's most successful public campaign to encourage good outdoor manners.

It began in the late '60s when BLM director Boyd Rasmusson and public affairs chief John Matton decided BLM needed something big to inspire people to help BLM improve the public lands. Both men had previously worked for the Forest Service so the Smokey Bear program was an influence. They contracted with an art firm and the image of Johnny Horizon was born.

In 1968, Gurr was hired to promote the program. "I had a logo and a theme. . . the only way to make it work would be to have a real person speak for the program, so I started contacting people in the entertainment world. I got a letter from Helen Ives, the wife of the famous folk singer, actor and entertainer Burl Ives. He liked the idea and wanted to help," said Gurr.

Through Ives, the entertainment world doors opened. Entertainers and others enlisted and soon it mushroomed into a wide-spread national citizens movement. Special Johnny Horizon concerts were held around the country including Anchorage.

Ives and Gurr recorded radio public service announcements throughout the country and participating stations received special certificates of appreciation from the Secretary of the Interior. Ives and Gurr also appeared on major TV shows of the day, including David Frost, Johnny Cash and Johnny Carson.

The response was overwhelming. "One day we got 25,000 letters, all from kids who saw us on TV," said Gurr. BLMers spent days stuffing Johnny Horizon decals and Outdoor Pledge cards into envelopes in the mail room to send to the kids. A private firm was licensed by BLM to produce promotional and educational materials such as wrist watches, coloring books, sweatshirts, ecology stamp sets, and activity books. Some products are still available on the Internet.

Soon Johnny's message broadened from litter prevention to include being careful with fire, following fish and game laws, driving off-road vehicles in appropriate locations, and respecting private property.

Johnny and his message even made *Newsweek* and the *New York Times*. The program was so successful that it outgrew BLM and was adopted throughout the Interior Department by many agencies, spreading as far as American Samoa. But time marched on, administrations and administrators changed, and the program quietly faded shortly after the Bicentennial in 1976.

Gurr retired from BLM-Alaska and moved to Sequim, Washington. He maintained contact with Ives who lived nearby and died in 1995. *Bovy is a public affairs specialist in External Affairs.*



A young George Gurr traveled country promoting the Johnny Horizon program with the help of the Boy Scouts and others.

AWARDS

JOINT Pipeline Office

*continued from front page,
Disaster meeting*

director **Curt McVee**. Our former leader is slightly greyer but still gives a good presentation with humor and grace. He presented AFO outdoor recreation planner **Mike Zaidlicz**, a Public Lands Foundation award for his father, former Montana state director **Ed "Moose" Zaidlicz**. The foundation recognized Zaidlicz's efforts to better public lands.

ASD **Linda Rundell** led the meeting and spoke of yearlong accomplishments in the land transfer program, the oversight work done by the Joint Pipeline Office of the Alaska pipeline and our involvement with the incident team that went back to New York City to assist with disaster relief at the Trade Center.

The following employees received awards during the meeting. Due to time constraints at the meeting, a more complete summary of employee accomplishments is published here:

Rob McWhorter received a *Quality Step Increase* for exceeding expectations while managing the renewal of the Trans Alaska right-of-way, a project of national significance.

Colleen McCarthy received a *Quality Step Increase* for outstanding work done on the Construction Comprehensive Monitoring Program report, her leadership while acting as chief of Technical and Design Review Branch and for co-leading the groundbreaking Reliability Centered Maintenance studies of critical hardware systems on the pipeline.

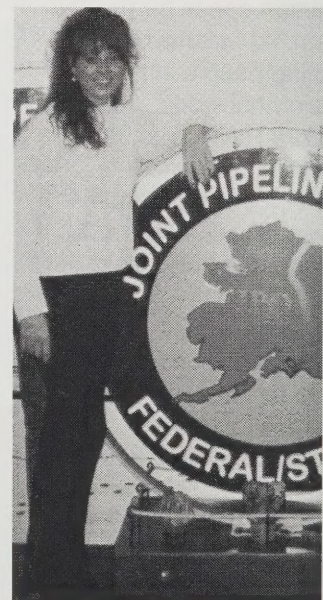
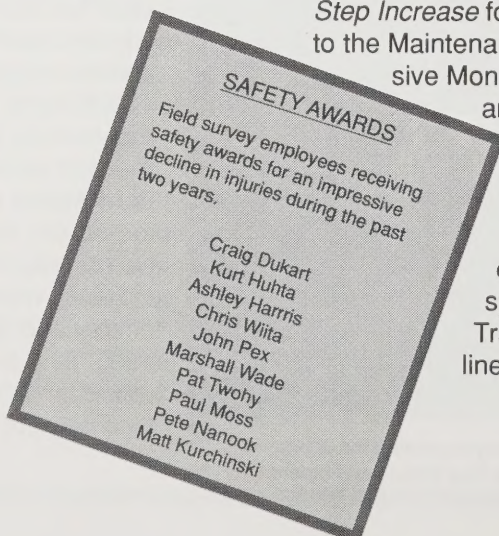
Doug Lalla received a *Quality Step Increase* for his findings in the Comprehensive Monitoring Program report. He covered highly technical and conceptually nuanced topics. His work is unprecedented in the BLM or elsewhere in the Department.

Jim Lusher received a *Quality Step Increase* for his contributions to the Maintenance Comprehensive Monitoring program, and co-leading the ground breaking Reliability Centered Maintenance studies of critical hardware systems on the Trans Alaska Pipeline System.

Chuck Chinnis received a *Quality Step Increase* for outstanding work while completing additional assignments. He assures the quality of all indexed incoming JPO correspondence among other duties.

Marietta Houston was awarded a *Star Award* for helping meet the Inspector General's deadline for incorporating engineering reports and assessment information into the CMP database. She tracks data and has developed formats so surveillance and engineering reports can be entered into the CMP database.

Linda Heistuman was awarded a *Star Award* for exceptional work while assuming numerous additional responsibilities.



Linda Heistuman

AWARDS

CADASTRAL Survey & Geometrics

Craig Frichtl received a *Star Award* for considerable work done in developing strategic plans for 12 Native regions in Alaska which allows BLM to move ahead of schedule in completing the Alaska Land Transfer program.

Mike Beale received a *Star Award* for his stint as acting Chief in the Policy Interpretation and Guidance Section for most of the fiscal year. Mike's knowledge, expertise, people skills and professional attitude helped the Alaska Land Transfer program run smoothly and efficiently.

Angie Nichols received a *Star Award* for being Survey's staff assistant extraordinaire. Her duties don't describe her worth; she is the central point for all administrative functions within the division and she is the adhesive that holds it together.

McKenzie Breaud received an *On-the-Spot Award* in recognition for accepting new and difficult administrative assignments with the utmost professionalism.

Genie Cruz received an *On-the-Spot Award* for performing many administrative duties that are normally given to a much more experienced employee.

John Douts received a *Star Award* for his budget analysis and distribution work. John deals with many unknowns and complexities and over time his expertise has proved invaluable.



Jerry Pinkerton and Angela Nichols

Jerry Pinkerton received a *STAR Award* for his work in reorganization preparation and position description writing. His expertise and calm diplomacy is invaluable when he deals with complex personnel issues.

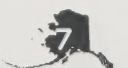
Frank Hardt received a *Star Award* for helping develop legal boundaries for uplifted lands throughout the state. These boundaries were developed in a timely and accurate manner which is vital to BLM's ability to meet land transfer goals.

John Sroufe received a *Star Award*. With a reduced staff and an increased survey work load, John, as Survey Preparation section chief, led his staff to produce beyond normal expectations and keep up with the survey schedule.

Jerry Lewis received a *Star Award* for performing his job in an exemplary way and for the volunteer work he does with numerous community organizations to further the Survey profession.

James Hawke received a *Star Award*. James' work ethic is legendary. He will attempt any job presented to him and does it quickly and professionally. James is fast, dependable and accurate.

Connie Ancheta received an *On-the-Spot Award* for work done as the staff assistant for the Branch of Survey Preparations and Policy and Guidance. She types final copy of the Special Instructions and corrects errors overlooked by writers and the editors. Connie is very observant and conscientious.



AWARDS

continued

CADASTRAL Survey & Geometrics

Rick Maron received an *On-the-Spot Award*. Rick writes Special Instructions and has been involved with several complex and difficult projects this year. He has managed these projects with little or no supervision.

Therron Woerner received a *Star Award* for work done as project inspector on four contracts and for completing extra field survey assignments in St. Marys.

Michael Harmening received a *Star Award* for work done as project inspector on a very complex Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act 14(c) project in Nome. His corner recovery efforts and comprehensive research saved BLM thousands of dollars in cost overruns on this contract.

Marshal D. Wade received a *Star Award* for excelling in the use of the Global Positioning System (GPS) and associated software to complete his projects and to assist others.

Christopher D. Wiita received a *Star Award* for completing more projects than expected and his leadership in the use of GPS.

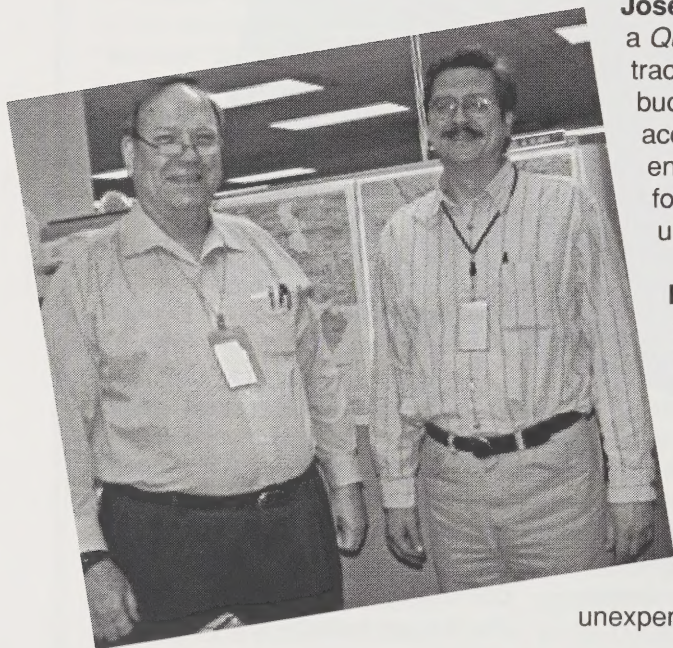
John A. Pex received a *Star Award* for completing a 1000 corner project in a expeditious manner as party chief in charge.

Joseph P. Burns received a *Quality Step Increase* for tracking the branch's budget and keeping all accounts up-to-date enabling timely decisions for reallocation of unexpended funds.

Mary Ann Nelson received a *Star Award* for maintaining current expenditures for all travel, credit cards and requisitions for each field survey employee enabling timely decisions on reallocation of unexpended funds.

Orrin Frederick received a *Quality Step Increase* for performing many field assignments this year on short notice in addition to his normal contract administration duties.

Matthew Kurchinski received a *Star Award* for recognition for work as project inspector for four contracts and volunteering for extra field survey assignments including a detail to the Arizona State Office.



Ron Schwind and Jerry Lewis

AWARDS

RESOURCES, Lands & Minerals

Don Baggs received a *Star Award* for serving as team lead on the Statewide Budget team and representing BLM-Alaska on the national program elements team.

Evvie Garis received an *On-the-Spot Award* for going way beyond the call of duty in working with the Solicitor's office on validity and status of mining claims, particularly problem-ridden claims in the Denali National Park.

Mike Haskins received a *Quality Step Increase* for outstanding work performance and exceeding work expectations. He provided management alternatives/solutions to issues related to the Chugiak Senior Center, the Knik Gravel Pit, and Wilder trespass of mineral materials on Elmendorf Air Force Base.

Patricia Johnson received an *On-the-Spot Award*. Patricia is new to BLM this year taking on a heavy workload with a positive attitude and professional manner. She has learned key duties quickly and continues to excel.

Russ Blome received an *On-the-Spot Award*. Russ is Mr. customer service. He's trained the Public Information Center staff to handle 17(b) easement issues, and had responded to more than 140 public information requests last fiscal year which has saved the public time, travel, and money.

Vanessa Hice received an *On-the-Spot Award*. Vanessa was instrumental in formalizing policy for processing mining accounting documents. Vanessa also helped digitize active federal mining claims now available on the State of Alaska website.

Robert Fisk received a *Quality Step Increase* for his leadership in the solid minerals program which has earned him recognition and commendation within BLM, the state government and industry.

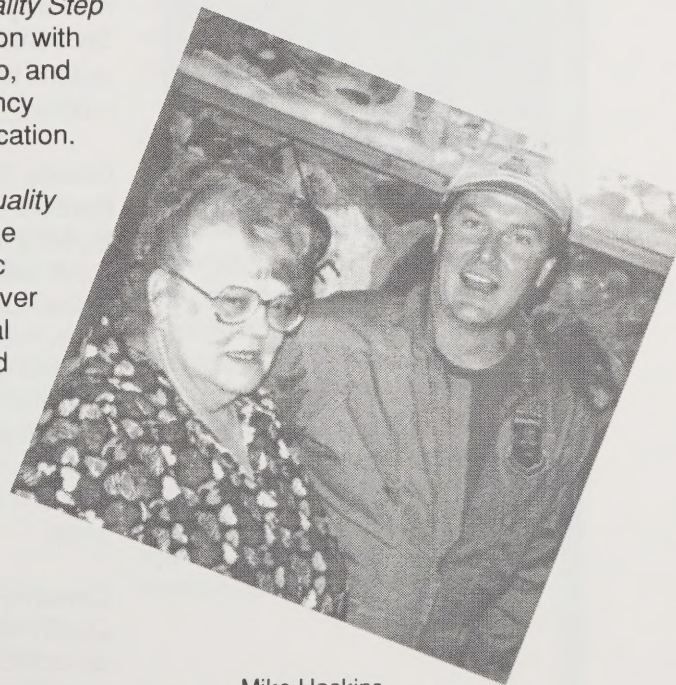
Mike Brown received an *On-the-Spot Award* for successfully coordinating and conducting an interagency navigability issues training course.

Dennis Tol received a *Quality Step Increase* for his participation with the Yukon River work group, and efforts to improve interagency coordination and communication.

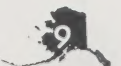
John Payne received a *Quality Step Increase* for work done with the Alaska Geographic Data Committee - Land Cover Subcommittee, the National Technical Means group and the Department of Defense. His efforts have resulted in interagency cooperation in the acquisition of land cover for the State of Alaska.

Taylor Brelsford received a *Star Award* for his ability to keep the State Director out of trouble on the Federal Subsistence Board. He has advanced the Bureau's subsistence program on all fronts this past year, including increased coordination between the field and the federal subsistence staff, and the Washington program staff.

Wayne Svejnoha received a *Star Award* for excellent work done in the hazardous materials arena. He has continuously provided sound advice, maintained a level head and awareness of implications while coordinating the development and issuance of the state-wide materials response contract.



Mike Haskins



AWARDS

CONVEYANCE Management

Barbara Opp Waldal received an *On-the-Spot Cash Award* for her contributions to the division's patent goals which included 291,576.79 acres, out of the 594,177.67 acres issued.

Nora Benson received an *On-the-Spot Cash Award* for contributions to the division's patent goals which included 254,016.01 acres, out of the 594,177.67 acres issued, and the completion of several unplanned projects.

Jerri Sansone received an *On-the-Spot Cash Award* for taking the lead in helping determine easements to be reserved for public use within lands conveyed to Chugach Alaska Corporation.

Ron Royer received an *On-the-Spot Cash Award* for major contributions to the strategic planning process.

Debbie Thomas, Barbara Walker, Barbara Cox, and Virginia Moberg received *On-the-Spot Cash* awards. As members of the Office Administrative Assistants team, they did extra work due to the loss of a team member. Together, they produced over 2,200 final packages for the Division. Through their efforts the division was able to exceed all its goals.

Christy Favorite received a *Quality Step Increase* for her assistance to the Department of Justice with its preparation for a three-week federal court trial. The attorney for the plaintiff described her as a person of integrity.

Lorri Denton received a *Star Award* for an outstanding work done as the sole adjudicator on the Alaska Native veterans allotment applications. She has maintained excellent relations with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Alaska Legal Service and BIA service providers which is critical for the success of the Native veterans program.

Bruce Duffy received a *Star Award* for working relentlessly to reconcile work on Freedom of Information Act issues related to the Bureau's records on land conveyed under the Mental Health entitlement. He has worked long and hard on resolving differences between our records and the State of Alaska so the conveyance process is not held up.

Becky Johnson received a *Star Award* for preparing a patent for 30,000 acres along the Colville River which was a third of annual work plan accomplishments. She has shown great resilience while adapting to changing priorities.

Sherri Belenski received an *On-the-Spot Cash Award* for conducting an inventory of case files and records for the Alaska Native and State escrow programs, reducing the number of files that will require future monitoring from 10,000 to 315 case files in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act program, and to 3,523 case files in the State program.



Janice McDowell, Barbara Opp Waldal, Sherri Belenski



AWARDS

SUPPORT Services

Ross Bordwell received a *Star Award* for local area network upgrades and changes

David Edge received a *Star Award* for firewall management and security of computer systems.

Jim Braham received a *Star Award* for leading the deployment of the Tivoli enterprise management system.

Steve Politsch received a *Time Off Award* for leading the upgrade of the areawide network.

Georgia Holton received a *Quality Step Increase* for her work with the Tivoli Enterprise Management System deployment.

John Montgomery received a *Star Award* for work on Freedom of Information Act issues.

Ramon Garcia-S received a *Star Award* for work done as EEO special emphasis program coordinator.

Pamela Chesla received a *Quality Step Increase* for work as project manager for the nationwide office automation suite upgrade.

Jerry Cartwright received a *Star Award* work done on document automation.

Linda Ricketts received a *Star award* for organizing and promoting data stewardship within BLM-Alaska.

Linda McClelland received a *Star Award* for web page work and Lotus notes installation.

Mark Withey received a *Star Award* for the Alaska State Office Lotus Notes installation and remedy testing.

Joan Steltenpohl received a *Star Award* for maintaining the Alaska Land Information System online DB and for telephone directory support.

Sondra Juliussen received a *Star Award* for support and maintenance of web-based applications.

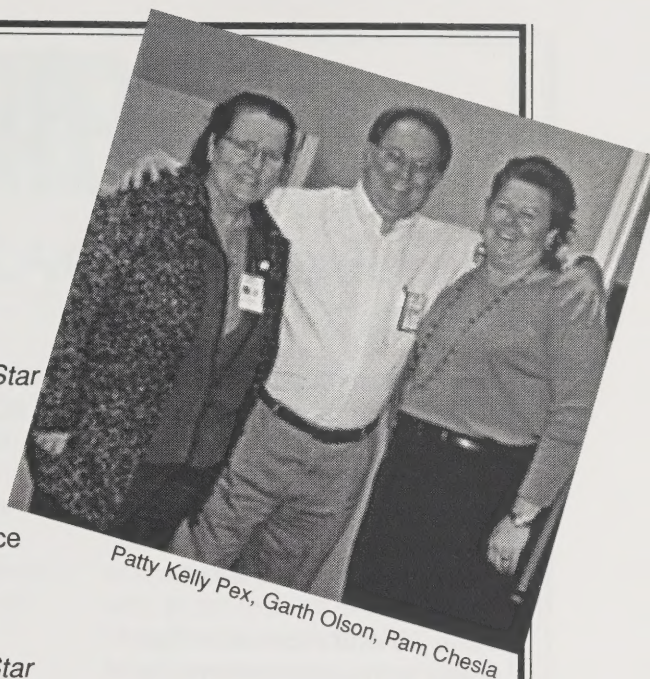
Lynne Marciniak received a *Star Award* for developing work plan tracking reports and maintaining conveyance special reports menus of MS Access-based applications.

Jon Wilson received a *Star Award* for technical services support.

Patty Pex received a *Star Award* for development and maintenance of MS Access-based applications.

Ned Darling received a *Star Award* for his leadership, devotion, and enthusiasm which contribute to the excellent maintenance of BLM's facilities at Campbell Tract Facility and Campbell Creek Science Center.

Donald Lofton received a *Star Award*. Don oversees the information technology operation at the Campbell Tract Facility and was instrumental in the acquisition of a new telephone switching system



Patty Kelly Pex, Garth Olson, Pam Chesla

and has supported numerous construction and new service installations.

Terri Shuey and **Gary Jamison** received *Star Awards* for juggling and meeting the demands of the CTF's information technology office. They have dealt with numerous troubleshooting calls, frequent customer office relocations, special projects, while managing the network infrastructure.

Joe Essert, Ross Bordwell, Steve Grantland, John Miller, Bobby Hollis, Max Graves received *Time Off Awards* for information technology support to employees affected by the installation of new carpet at the Anchorage Federal building.

Ken Higgins received an *On-the-Spot Cash Award* for work done with the Federal Protective Service, GSA and other Anchorage Federal Building tenants to develop security procedures.

AWARDS

*STATE Director's Staff

Peter Ditton received a *Star Award* for his leadership in developing BLM-Alaska's proposed role in the National Energy Policy. He helped define workload targets and resources required for implementation.

Gene Terland received a *Star Award* for his achievements in the development of the National Energy Policy, his role in the execution of the Trans Alaska pipeline contract and his role in developing the proposal for NPR-A's northwest interdisciplinary activity plan.

Tonyua Abrom received a *Star Award* for conceptualizing the Statewide Administrative Team which has become an effective working group.

Myrna Tihonovich received a *Star Award* for her proficiency and professionalism while serving the State Director's office.

Garth Olson received a *Star Award* for support and commitment to the EEO program. As an EEO counselor, he assisted managers and employees in finding common ground in resolving their issues.

John Sroufe received a *Star Award* for his long term support of the EEO program by providing counseling to BLM employees.



State Director Fran Cherry gives Special Agent-in-Charge Pam Stuart the new FLPMA badge our law enforcement employees are wearing.

Jerry Pinkerton received a *Star Award* for your support of the EEO program in times of its greatest need. His willingness to assist when the office experienced a staffing shortage immensely aided our ability to provide continued customer support.

Charles Luddington received a *Star Award* for his continued support of the EEO program which includes counseling, photography, information dissemination, and his willingness to assist employees in the lower 48.

Laura Lagstrom received a *Star Award*. As the American Indian/Alaska Native Program Coordinator, she exhibited great leadership in collaborating activities with the Native American Council. Due to her efforts, employees and the community have a better understanding of the Alaska Native culture.

Tonyua Abrom received a *Star Award* for her efforts to advance the goals and objectives of the Federal Women's Program which assists women in achieving their potential in the workplace.

Regina Scantlebury received a *Star Award* for her untiring efforts as coordinator for the Asian Pacific Islander program. Her invaluable ideas and suggestions have enhanced the status of not only Asian employees but all BLM employees.

Ella Wright received a *Star Award*. As black employment program coordinator, the image and understanding of BLM has been enhanced through her continued support and participation as BLM's liaison in the Anchorage School District's multicultural student leadership conference, the Anchorage-based Diversity Awareness committee and other committees.

*receiving awards from SD, ASD, EEO, Law Enforcement, External Affairs

AWARDS

ANCHORAGE Field Office

Ramon Garcia-S received a *Star Award* for work done as the Hispanic Employment Program Coordinator. He was instrumental in coordinating the visit of the Presidents of New Mexico Highlands and New Mexico Tech Universities. He has gone the extra mile to accommodate HACU students coming to Alaska.

Greg Balen received a *Star Award*. As the School Business Partnership Program coordinator, 26 Anchorage School district students were hired by BLM. He was also instrumental in the success of *Meet the Managers* program and his willingness to assist youth has made a difference.

In June, 2001, the BLM received a "Star Award" from the Anchorage School District School Business Partnership Program for their partnership with Kasuun Elementary. The partnership involves BLM's **Ned Darling** who organizes the Adopt-a-Highway clean up of Abbott Loop Road and 68th Avenue with Kasuun Elementary sixth graders. The partnership also involves educational programming that the science center staff provides to the school, both in the classroom and at the Center. The award "recognizes outstanding partnerships which strive to provide the best possible positive enhancement programs for Anchorage students." This year only 5 of 475 partnerships in the Anchorage community received the distinction.

In September, 2001, **Van Waggoner** received the Jerry S. Dixon Award for Environmental Education. This award by the Alaska Conservation Foundation "honors the most innovative Alaskan educators who, in an inspired manner, integrate stewardship of Alaska's natural resources into their instructive efforts."

In November, 2001, the Science Center Team earned the BLM Excellence in Interpretation and Environmental Education Award. The award recognizes the accomplishments and contributions of BLM employees who have made a significant difference in the field of interpretation and environmental education.

•The Anchorage Field Office welcomed **June Bailey** as its associate field manager in December. She comes from the Phoenix Training Center where she was the lands training coordinator. A primary focus for Bailey will be the oversight of the AFO planning process.

•**Jeff Brune** was appointed director of the Campbell Creek Science Center in January. He recently served as acting center director and has worked as an educator at the center since 1996.



Campbell Creek Science Center staff. (l-r) Brian Lax, Beryl Wardlaw, Kelly Hohmann, Cara Wardlaw-Bailey, Shannan Roy, Susan Sandy, Susanna Mishler, Sindra Wolfson, Colleen O'Brien, Van Waggoner, Mark Denecke, Bob Shipley, and Jeff Brune

ARLIS Receives National Award from White House



Sharon Prien and Kathy Vitale are BLM's librarians at ARLIS.

In September, the Alaska Resources Library and Information Services (ARLIS) received the National Award for Museum and Library Service—the most distinguished award bestowed on a museum or library nationwide. ARLIS is one of three libraries selected to receive the award from the Institute of Museum and Library Service, an independent federal agency that fosters leadership, innovation and lifetime learning. Robert Martin, director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services said, "These awards impart national recognition to the museums and libraries that have uplifted individuals lives, improved their communities and made our nation better for it"

ARLIS is the result of seven federal, state and university libraries banding together to survive budget cuts in 1995. The partnership saved individual library collections from extinction and the new library has proved greater than the sum of its parts. ARLIS staff provides unbiased, universal access to information to patrons on all sides of natural resource issues, locally, nationwide and around the world.

Conferences & Workshops

what: Northern Latitudes Mining Reclamation Workshop

when: October 1, 2001

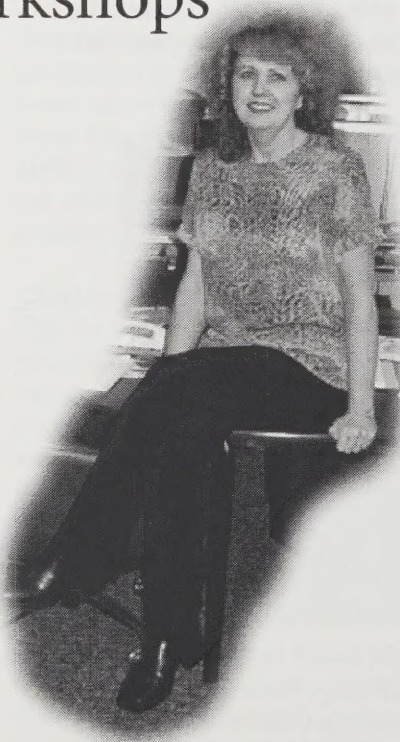
why: an international workshop addressing mining remediation issues shared by the U.S. and Canada.

significance of the workshop: opportunity for the BLM/State of Alaska and Canada to work on mining remediation issues of the Yukon River

where: Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada

participants: 145 in attendance, representatives from BLM, State of Alaska, Yukon Territory, First Nations and Alaska Natives.

what's next: BLM will sponsor the next conference scheduled for 2003 in Fairbanks



Leslie Torrence played a large part in the planning of the Northern Latitudes workshop.

what: interagency navigability workshop

why: to address navigability issues shared by affected agencies

the importance of navigability? determine acreage accountability and ownership of submerged lands which greatly affects the land transfer program

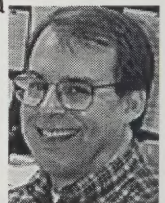
when: Nov. 6, 2001

where: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) offices, Anchorage

participants: BLM, Army Corps of Engineers, Coast Guard, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FWS, Forest Service, National Park Service

BLM speakers: Linda Resseguie, Frank Hardt, Terry Hobbs

BLM coordinator: Mike Brown



Alzheimers—what you need to know

At a recent Federal Women's Program, Robert Albertson (a pharmacist with the Alaska Longevity Program Division) gave attendees some insight into the world of Alzheimers.

What is Alzheimers? It's a disease of the brain which affects about four million Americans.

Symptoms

- memory loss that affects everyday living
- difficulty performing familiar tasks such as using an appliance
- problems naming a common object, such as a watch or pencil
- getting lost easily, even in familiar places
- poor or decreased judgment
- problems with abstract thinking
- frequently loses or misplaces items
- changes in mood, behavior and personality
- loss of interest or lack of initiative in usual activities



Federal Womens Program members are pictured with speakers at a recent session on Alzheimers. (l-r Terri Evarts, Peggy Richardson, Belinda Coonrod, Barbara Walker, Robert Albertson, Felicia Brusatto, Anita Jette, Sharon Dean, Roy Walker.

People display symptoms three-and-a-half to five-and-a-half years before diagnosis. During the first stages of the disease, early symptoms are often attributed to the aging process. A person with moderate Alzheimer's (lasting 2 to 10 years) will often display anxiety or depression and believe things are real when they are not. In the final stages (lasting 1-3 years) a

person can no longer use or understand words or even recognize family members.

It is important to get early diagnosis so treatment, safety, financial, and legal issues can be addressed.

—Source: *Keepsake*, a program on Memory, Aging and Alzheimer's

Cool News

Artistic Flavor Comes Through. **Larry Crane**, law enforcement assistant showed his creative side in January when he had his first gallery opening at the Eastside Espresso in Anchorage. Crane's oil paintings are often mountain and seascapes.

From Trainer to Manager. **Sandy Dunn** is acting chief of Human Resources until the position is filled. Dunn, a quality management specialist, has had many career experiences which include being the assistant district manager of lands at the Anchorage District Office.

Conveyance Employees Tapped for National Responsibility. Congratulations to **Ron Royer** and **Elizabeth Carew** who were two of 15 employees selected nationwide to receive training as project managers for the Bureau's Information Technology Investment Management fourth cadre. After successfully completing the training, they will serve as project managers on national, state office and field office information technology projects and develop and review project proposals.

Resources to Move to C Street. Fifty-two employees from the Division of Resources, Lands and Minerals will relocate to the Conquest Building at

3230 C Street on February 15. Left behind at the Anchorage Federal Building is the Minerals component of the division. Relocates will have the same phone numbers and are expected to be at this location for at least a year. This relocation allows for space needed so revamping of the federal building's ventilation and heating systems can be accomplished.

Gardening in Reno. If you have any questions about gardening you can direct them to former associate state director **Fred Wolf** in Nevada. He has become a master gardener since his retirement and conducts gardening workshops.

Preconceptions to be Addressed at Black History Keynote

BLM-Alaska will host Black History Month's keynote speaker John O. Hunwich at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art, February 15 and 16, 2002. Hunwich, professor of African History at Northwestern University, is "poised to give the death blow to Westerners preconceptions that Black Africans were illiterate until 19th century Christian missionaries taught them to read."

Chicago Tribune staff reporter Ron Grossman told special emphasis manager **Ella Wright** that Hunwich had a fantastic slide collection of 3,000 manuscripts. The manuscripts were shown to the professor in August 1999 by a young man in Timbuktu. The manuscripts include generations of letters to complete books of the young man's ancestors since the mid-15th century.

Recently Hunwich did a radio show where the scheduled 30 minutes lasted 1 1/2 hours as he answered questions from a call-in audience.

Members of the diversity awareness team (DAT) representing federal, state and the Municipality of Anchorage agencies are co-sponsors and contributors to this year's Black History Month celebration. Wright, led the effort to bring Hunwich to Anchorage.

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